

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	CRIMINAL DOCKET NO. 2:09-CR-062
v.	*	SECTION: "F"(1)
MICHAEL J. COLEMAN	*	VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 641
	* * *	

FACTUAL BASIS

Should this matter have gone to trial, the Government would have proved beyond a reasonable doubt, through the introduction of competent testimony and admissible tangible exhibits, the following facts to support the allegations charged by the United States Attorney in the Bill of Information now pending against the defendant, **MICHAEL J. COLEMAN** ("COLEMAN" or the "defendant").

An employee from the United States Postal Service would testify that, prior to 2008, six "bait" money orders were placed at the Gretna Main Post Office. This employee would testify that a bait money order is a money order left at various locations in a particular post office that contains extra serial digits, permitting them to be tracked upon its usage. With the exception of the extra serial number and the varying amounts each money order is worth, the bait money orders are blank. Each of the bait money orders are useable and, upon being used, are supported by funds from the

United States government. The six bait money orders in this matter had a combined face value of \$1,215.00 in governmental funds.

A Postal Inspector from the United States would testify that, in July 2008, the United States Postal Service (“USPS”) notified the inspector that the six bait money orders were unaccounted for from the Gretna Main Post Office. The inspector would testify that, on or around July 25, 2008, she received information that three of the six bait money orders were cashed, two of them being cashed by a woman identified as Camisha Davis. The inspector would testify that, upon being interviewed, Ms. Davis identified the defendant, **MICHAEL J. COLEMAN**, as the individual who gave her the two money orders to be cashed. Specifically, the inspector would testify that Ms. Davis stated that Bait Money Order No. 8698666782, in the amount of \$210.00, and Bait Money Order No. 8698666785, in the amount of \$310.00, were given to her by the defendant in order for her to cash them to pay for her bills and other expenses. Ms. Davis advised that the defendant would occasionally provide her money to help her pay for her bills because they were in a previous relationship together. The inspector would further testify that, during the interview of Ms. Davis, she was shown the two bait money orders she cashed and she identified them. Ms. Davis would also be called to testify to these facts.

The inspector would further testify that several days after being informed of the cashing of the three bait money orders, she was advised that a fourth bait money order from the original six bait money orders left at the Gretna Main Post Office was cashed. The inspector would testify that this money order, Bait Money Order No. 8698666780, in the amount of \$110.00, was cashed by a woman named LaShonda Arbuthnot, who was identified because her name was listed on the “pay to” section of the bait money order. The inspector would further testify that, upon being interviewed, Ms.

Arbuthnot stated that her boyfriend, Rodney Walker, gave her this bait money order for her to cash for him because he does not own a bank account. Upon being interviewed, Mr. Walker advised the inspector that he purchased Bait Money Order No. 8698666780, in the amount of \$110.00, for \$50.00 in cash, after being approached by an individual identifying himself as "Mike." Ms. Arbuthnot and Mr. Walker would also be called to testify as to these facts.

Finally, the inspector would testify that, on or around September 22, 2008, the defendant, **MICHAEL J. COLEMAN**, was interviewed. After being read his *Miranda* rights, the defendant stated that from on or about June 2004 through on or about September 2008, he was employed as a Postal Carrier at the Gretna Main Post Office. **COLEMAN** further stated that he found all six bait money orders at the Gretna Main Post Office in mid-May 2008. Knowing he should have turned them in, and with intent to deprive the owner the use of the money orders, the defendant, **COLEMAN**, confessed that he knowingly took and converted them for his own use or for the use of others. **COLEMAN** advised that he gave two of the bait money orders to Ms. Camisha Davis, which are referenced above. As noted above, he also conceded giving one of the six bait money orders to Rodney Walker. The inspector would further testify that **COLEMAN** confessed to giving one of the bait money orders, Bait Money Order No. 8698666784, in the amount of \$110.00, to his first cousin, Antoinette Ellis, to pay for her insurance. **COLEMAN** further stated that one of the bait money orders, Bait Money Order No. 8698666781, in the amount of \$310.00, was given to another cousin of his, Awanna Watts, to pay for her electric bill. Finally, **COLEMAN** stated that the last bait money order, Bait Money Order No. 8698666783, in the amount of \$165.00, was deposited by him in his personal bank account. **COLEMAN**'s personal bank account records, which reflect a deposit encompassing the amount of Bait Money Order 8698666783 on or around July 7, 2008,

would be introduced into evidence to further corroborate the confession given by the defendant.

The bait money orders retrieved, a master listing of the six bait money orders generated by the USPS, as well as **COLEMAN**'s handwritten confession, would be introduced into evidence to further demonstrate the facts as set forth above.

READ AND APPROVED:

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MICHAEL J. COLEMAN (Date)
Defendant